

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-13 (ISO) W
----- 094380

R 230730Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1736

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

FBIS OKINAWA

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: PEKING CONTINUES TO REBUILD AS NEW EARTHQUAKES HITS
SZECHWAN

REF: HONG KONG 9889

1. A 6.5 RICHTER SCALE QUAKE HIT THE SZCHWAN BORDER AREAS
ON AUGUST 22, THE SECOND QUAKE IN SIX DAYS. WHILE
THE FIRST QUAKE DID "SOME DAMAGE (REFTEL), THE RECENT ONE--
PERHAPS AN AFTERSCKOCK--ACCORDING TO SOME OBSERVORS LIKELY DID
LITTLE ADDITIONAL DAMAGE. (THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL CHINESE
COMMENT AT THIS TIME). SZECHWAN BROADCAST (AUGUST 21) HAVE
STRESSED THE PARTY COMMITTEE-LED RECOVERY EFFORTS IN PROGRESS,
WITH THE PLA LAUDED FOR THEIR NOW WELL-FAMILAR LEADING ROLE.
HOWEVER, THE BROADCASTS INDICATED THAT THE "CAPITALIST ROADERS"
AND "CLASS ENEMIES" WERE SPREADING RUMORS WHICH COULD INDICATE
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LOCAL PROBLEMS IN CARRYING OUT RELIEF OPERATIONS, AS WELL AS

FUTHER SPREAD OF THE THEORY OF THE DYING OUT OF THE DYNAST
(HK 9783).

2. HUPEH BOSS LIU CHIH-HOU AT A PROVINCIAL PARTY MEETING ON
AUGUST 17 GAVE A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE TANGSHAN-GENGAN EARTH-
QUAKE RECOVERY EFFORT WHICH INDICATES THAT MUCH OF THE IMMEDIATE
RELIEF WORK HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED (AUGUST 19 BROADCAST).
ACCORDING TO LIU, "PROBLEMS CONCERNING FOOD, CLOTHING,
AND WATER SUPPLY FOR THE PEOPLE" HAVE BEEN "BASICALLY SOLVED"
AND THE "ISSUE OF LIVING ACCOMODATIONS IS "BEING SOLVED".
IN ADDITION, REPAIRS HAVE ENABLED THE "TUNGSHIEN COUNTY-TOTZU-
TOU RAILWAY" TO REOPEN AND "HIGHWAYS" HAVE BEEN "BASICALLY
OPENED" WHILE "COMMUNICATIONS" HAVE BEEN "RESTORED PRELIMINARILY".
THESE REPORTS OF SUCCESSFUL ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE ALL COINED
IN RATHER INDEFINITE TERMS AND WE SUSPECT THAT RECOVERY IN
THE AREA IS STILL GOING TO BE A LONG, HARD PROCESS.
CROSS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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